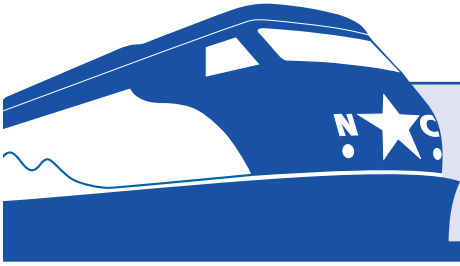




@NC\_By\_Train  
ncbytrain.org



NCDOT Rail Division

# The Rail Report



March 2016

## NC By Train Launches New “Go. Reconnect.” Ad Campaign



Passenger rail service in North Carolina has a new name and a new look. In January, the N.C. Department of Transportation Rail Division launched a new advertising campaign to promote NC By Train, formerly known as North Carolina’s Amtrak.

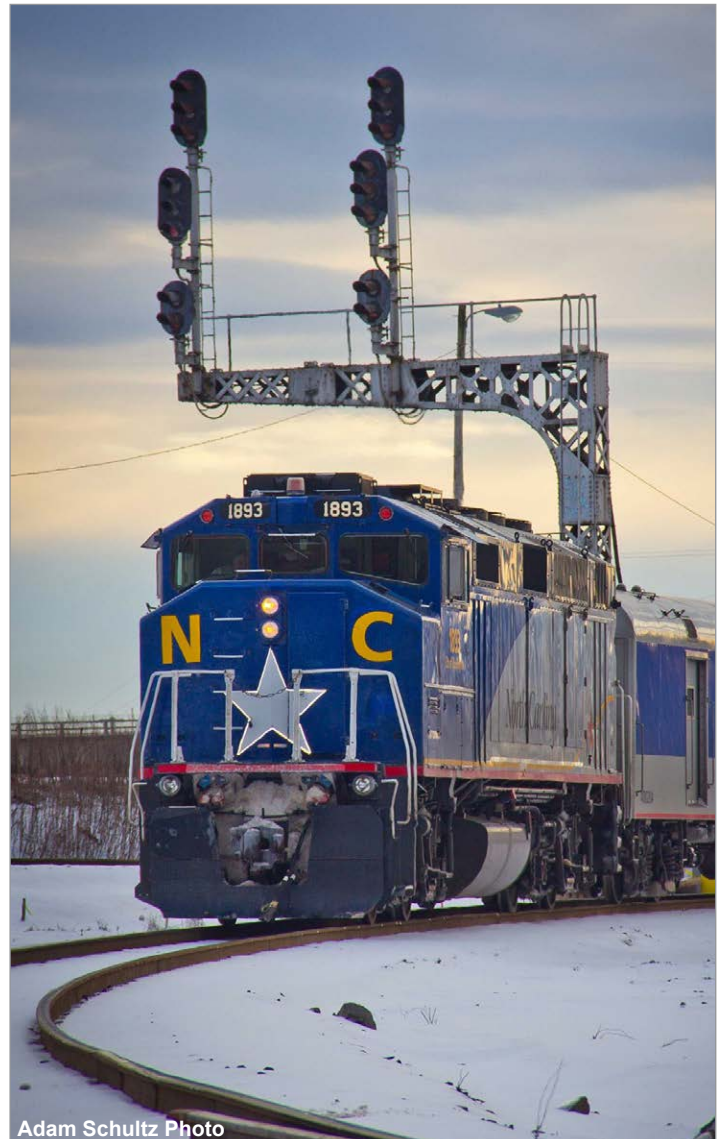
The “Go. Reconnect.” campaign features images of train travelers as

they ride NC By Train to reconnect with family, friends and experiences along the North Carolina rail corridor.

“With our new campaign, we are sharing with potential new riders what so many of our current passengers already know—that our service is a great way to go and reconnect with friends and family along the Piedmont Corridor,” said Rail Division Director Paul Worley.

The new name and logo have a clean, simple and modern look and feel, and tie in to the existing ncbytrain.org URL, as well as 1-800-BY-TRAIN – both already used by the department.

The new “Go. Reconnect.” campaign ads for NC By Train can be seen on a variety of digital, social media, print and other advertising platforms.

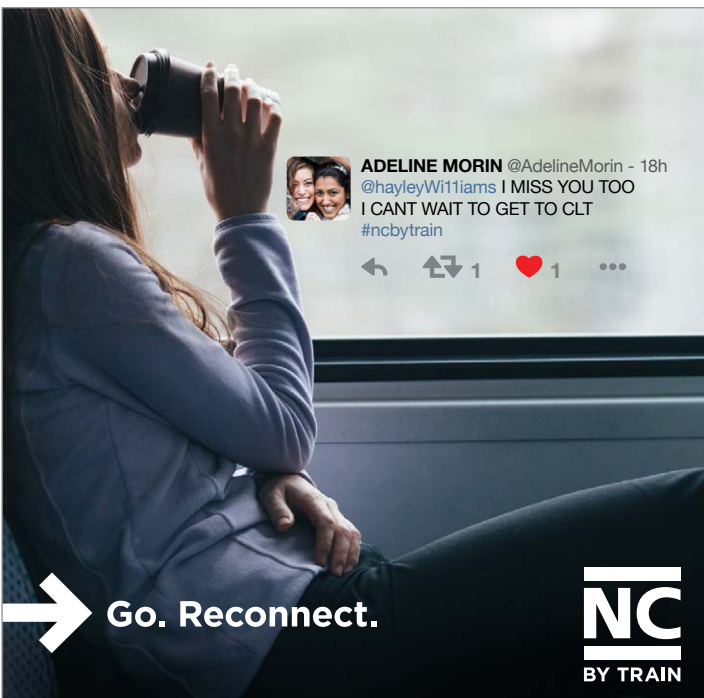


Adam Schultz Photo

## NC By Train Service Continued To Run During Winter Storm Jonas

In late January, snow and ice put a damper on travel for many in North Carolina and the Eastern U.S., but during the storm, NC By Train service continued to run. On Friday, Jan. 23, all trains ran. On Saturday and Sunday, early morning trains were cancelled, but the mid-day and late afternoon trains ran between Charlotte and Raleigh, giving North Carolinians a travel alternative during this winter weather event.

The NCDOT Rail Division is very appreciative of the effort put forth by Amtrak, their employees, NCDOT Station Attendants and Volunteer Train Hosts to keep North Carolina train service performing at an optimal level during Winter Storm Jonas.



## Amtrak Worker Recognized for Saving Freight Train



An Amtrak passenger service representative saved a CSX Transportation (CSXT) freight train from an incident that could have resulted in derailment.

Tim Carroll, a self-proclaimed rail fan, was working at the Fayetteville Amtrak station in December 2015 when he stepped outside to see a northbound CSXT freight train pass by. That's when he noticed sparks flying along with fire and smoke coming from one of the wheels of the train.

Carroll quickly took action and notified the CSXT dispatcher in Florence, South Carolina. CSXT officials stopped the train immediately.

CSXT vice president of passenger operations, Jay S. Westbrook, sent a letter of appreciation to Carroll, thanking him for his dedication. Carroll

also received a letter of appreciation from Amtrak General Manager Thomas Kirk.

Carroll, when asked about the incident, humbly said, "It is nice to be recognized."

Carroll served another memorable roll in December, playing Santa for the Rail Division's annual Santa Train out of Charlotte. Children aboard the Santa Train enjoyed spending time and sharing their wish lists with Santa, Mrs. Claus and their helpers.

Carroll admits his motivation for donning the red suit is simple, "It's worth it to see the kid's smiles and excitement."

The NCDOT Rail Division wants to thank Tim Carroll for helping to make this day special for so many children and parents, and for his dedication and commitment to safety and service for rail passengers traveling in North Carolina.

He is truly a valued member of the of the NCDOT Rail Division family.



### ***Planning for Success Preparing for Change...***

The NCDOT Rail Division and the Triangle Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) are hosting a regional rail forum to discuss ongoing freight and passenger rail initiatives in the Southeast. The Southeast Rail Forum will be held on March 16-18, 2016, in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the Sheraton Hotel.

Rail agency management and staff, engineers, maintenance and safety professionals, operations staff, equipment designers, board members, legislators, and policymakers, government agency staff, suppliers, consultants and contractors are invited to attend. Speakers and panelists anticipated to participate include, but are not limited to:

NC Secretary of Transportation Nick Tennyson  
NC Representative Bill Brawley, Co-Chair of the VA-NC Interstate High Speed Rail Compact  
Mayor Jennifer Roberts, City of Charlotte  
Mayor Rick Danner, Greer, SC  
Paul Cozza, Executive Director of the NCSA  
Jack Ellenburg, Senior Vice President of the SC Ports Authority  
Paul Worley, NCDOT Rail Division Director

Jennifer Mitchell, Director, VA DRPT

Carol Comer, Director GDOT Intermodal Division

Doug Frate, Director of Freight and Intermodal Programs, SCDOT

Janice Cowan, SC Operation Lifesaver

Margaret Cannell, NC Operation Lifesaver

Kyle Gradinger, Jessie Gatti, and Randy Brown of FRA

Representatives from CSX, NS, and Amtrak, and other industry experts

Other speakers will be announced as the conference draws near.

#### **Forum sessions will be led by top rail experts and will:**

- Highlight the regional economic benefits of passenger and freight services, including a discussion of the Northeast Corridor.
- Introduce attendees to the Federally Led Regional Planning Study and provide an opportunity for participation.
- Identify the role, trends and activities in intermodal freight transportation.
- Explore potential governance structures that could be used to fund and operate passenger services across state lines.
- Provide an opportunity for multi-state networking and information sharing.
- Provide an opportunity to tour Piedmont Improvement Program projects between Charlotte and High Point.

Visit <http://www.ncdot.gov/conferences/srf/> to register for the Forum and for info on accommodations and sponsorship opportunities.



# Railroad Highway Crossing in Moore County Improved with FRRCSI funds



Before



After

ACWR was responsible for the crossing installation and rail safety coordination. Rail Division FR&RCSI funding provided approximately \$196,000 for the tub crossing materials, and NCDOT Division Eight provided signing detours and all road work on the crossing approaches.

For more information on the FR&RCSI program, visit the NCDOT Rail Division projects page at [www.ncbytrain.org/](http://www.ncbytrain.org/)



Work was recently completed on installation of a new and improved railroad crossing at the intersection of N.C. 5 and Anderson Street in Aberdeen. The the old crossing surface, which was in poor condition, was replaced with a more durable concrete crossing.

The Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railroad (ACWR), NCDOT Division Eight, and NCDOT Rail Division worked together to complete the project in an efficient and timely manner.

# Rail Division Helps Fans Cheer on the Carolina Panthers!

During the 2015 football season, the Rail Division helped fans cheer on the Carolina Panthers by moving them safely to and from the games on the Piedmont trains. Passengers from across the state boarded the Piedmont at their closest station, relaxed and enjoyed the train ride to Charlotte. Upon arrival in the Queen City, passengers boarded the daily CATS Route #11 buses to the Bank of America Stadium. The Rail Division also ran a special late train on Jan. 3 to transport fans home following the Panthers' game with Tampa Bay. Many excited fans were happy that the Piedmont train schedules coincided with the NFC playoff game on Jan. 17. The Rail Division also encouraged fans to use the train to travel to the NFC Championship game on Jan. 24. An estimated 4,000 passengers rode the Piedmont trains to the games over the course of the 2015 football season, and the service was even featured on a national sports blog. The Rail Division is looking forward to transporting Carolina Panthers fans to more games for the 2016 season.

# Historic Mecklenburg County Depot Relocated

On Jan. 26, 2016, the historic 1912 Thrift Depot in northwest Charlotte was moved off of CSXT property, across the tracks and Old Mount Holly



Road, onto State-owned property where it can now be preserved. The depot is on the National Register of Historic Places, and was donated to NCDOT by CSXT to be saved from demolition. It is the last P&N depot left standing in Mecklenburg County, and one of only two remaining in North Carolina. Stabilization work is underway, and the Department plans to restore and lease it until it is needed in the future for a transportation use.

# Ridership & Revenue on NC's Amtrak Service – \*Dec. 2015 vs. 2014

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2015	2014	% +/-	2015	2014	% +/-
Piedmont	13,885	14,855	-7%	\$290,824	\$306,414	-5%
Carolinian	24,557	26,978	-9%	\$1,683,879	\$1,903,412	-12%

**\*December 2015** service modifications and annulments impacted four Piedmont trains and one Carolinian train. On Dec. 7, Trains 73, 74, 75 and 76 were annulled to accommodate PIP project track work for Haw River siding, and Train 80 originated at Durham. In Dec. 2014, four Piedmont trains, but no Carolinian trains, suffered service disruptions: on Dec. 7, Train 73 was cancelled at Cary (mechanical) and Train 74 was cancelled and passengers were bused to their destination; and on Dec. 16, Train 74 was terminated in Greensboro and Train 76 cancelled, with passengers via bus, due to Train 75 vehicle strike at Mebane. Additional disruptions for PIP project work may continue to occur as necessary. Average gasoline prices were \$2.11/gallon in Dec. 2015 vs. \$2.64/gallon in Dec. 2014 (EIA Weekly Retail Gasoline for Lower Atlantic region).

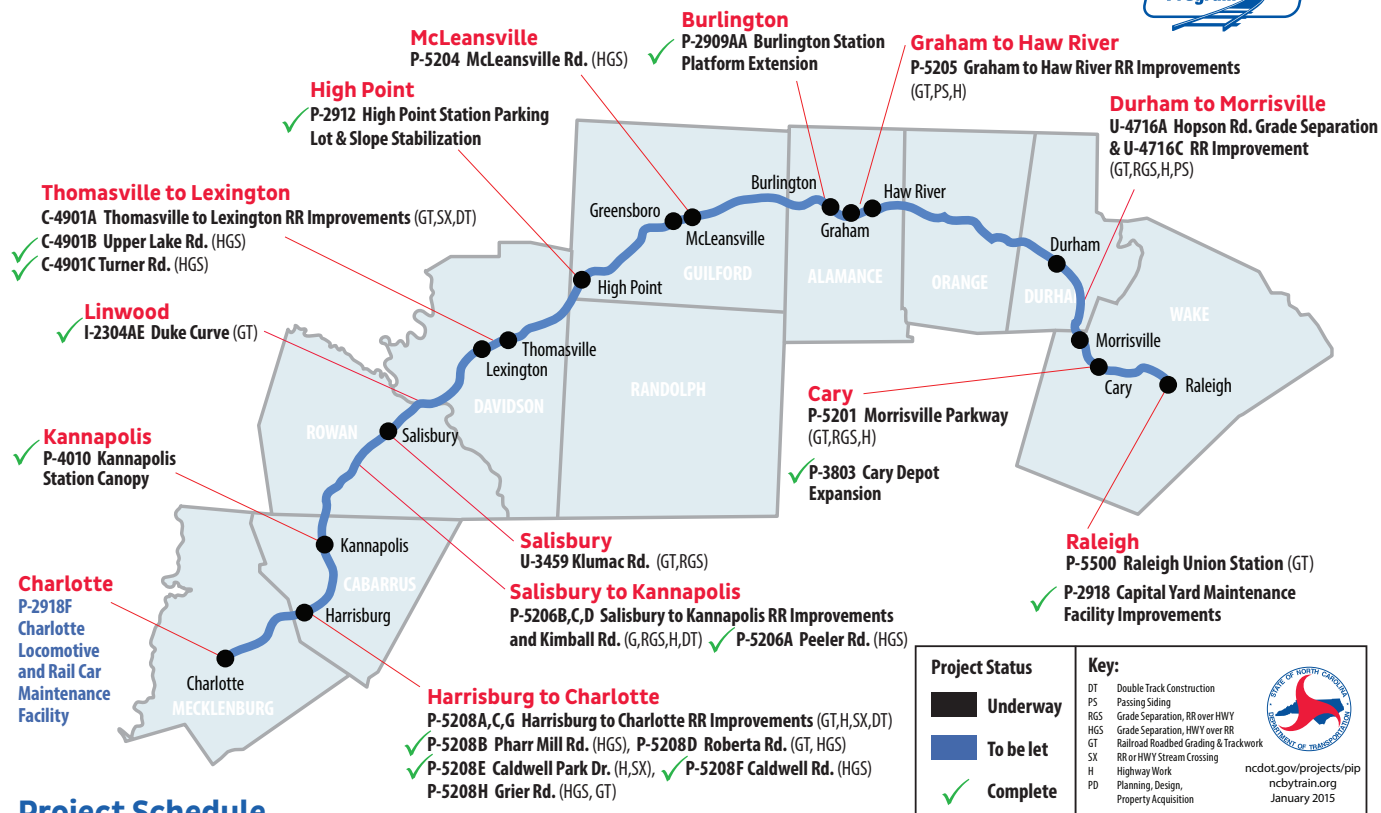
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Hours Volunteered by N.C. Train Hosts in November, supporting North Carolina's Amtrak onboard trains and at events.

Train Host Association

N.C.

# Piedmont Improvement Program – January 2016 Status Report



## Spent to Date of \$520M (eff. 1/31/2016)

Component	Expenditure
PD&A/ROW	\$49,615,485
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$27,710,949
Stations & Facilities	\$44,025,846
Track & Structures	\$247,389,613
CRISP	\$2,180,376
<b>Program Totals</b>	<b>\$370,922,269</b>

Eleven new contracts totaling \$241,530 were awarded in January.

## Commitments to Date of \$520M (eff. 1/31/2016)

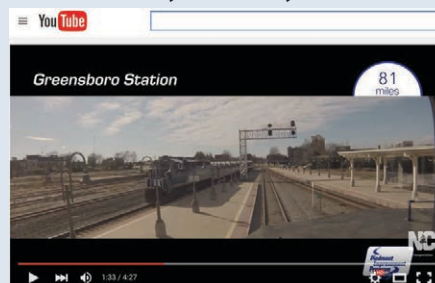
Current Commitments		\$471M
Pending Commitments		Anticipated Date
		\$42.7M
	Charlotte Maintenance Facility Construction	3/16
	PIDS Construction	1/16
	PD&A	Through '16
Balance		\$8.2M
		\$6.3M

## Raleigh to Charlotte Video through Piedmont Improvement Program Projects now available on YouTube

The N.C. Department of Transportation is halfway through construction of the Piedmont Improvement Program projects, and wants to remind NC By Train passengers that while some of these projects will cause temporary service delays, they will increase efficiency and safety in the future.

A video, taken from the cab of the *Piedmont* locomotive, covers the 173-mile route and provides a firsthand look at the projects being completed along the Raleigh-Charlotte corridor as part of the ARRA-funded Piedmont Improvement Program.

To see the video, enter [ow.ly/Y0kGc](http://ow.ly/Y0kGc) in your web browser.





## Piedmont Improvement Program – Project Photos – Jan. 2016



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, bridge construction



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, track construction



U-4716 Nelson to Clegg Passing Siding, track construction



P-5205 Graham to Haw River Passing Siding, new alignment



P-5204 McLeansville Road Bridge Construction



P-5204 McLeansville Road Bridge Construction



## Piedmont Improvement Program – Project Photos – Jan. 2016



C-4901 Bowers to Lake, track construction



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, industrial track construction



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, Kimball Road Bridge construction



P-5208A Haydock to Junker, Coddle Creek Bridge, drilled shaft construction for north interior bent



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Roberta Road Bridge Construction



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Grier Road Bridge Construction